

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7151

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PASS STR

PASS AGRICULTURE FAS, STARKEY/ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT IN COMMONS ON CANADIAN EXPORTS OF EGGS

TO U.S. BY AGMIN. WHELAN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER EXCHANGE OCCURRED IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS ON JULY 29, 1975, THE LAST TWO SENTENCES
OF MIN. WHELAN'S STATEMENT ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:

MR. ARNOLD PETERS (TIMISKAMING): "IN
VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PRESS REPORTS INDICATING CONGRESSIONAL
DEMANDS FOR U.S. RETALIATION IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENTLY
IMPOSED QUOTAS ON U.S. EGGS COMING INTO CANADA, CAN THE
MINISTER INFORM THE HOUSE WHETHER THE EGG ISSUE HAS
SERIOUSLY COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MEAT TRADE, AND
TO WHAT EXTENT THE CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
CONVINCE THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS THAT THE EGG QUOTAS WERE
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BOTH NECESSARY AND CONSISTENT WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER

GATT?"

HOM. E.F. WHELAN (MIN OF AGRICULTURE): "I AM SURE THE HON. MEMBER KNOWS BETTER THAN TO PAY ATTENTION TO PRESS REPORTS - BECAUSE SOME OF THE PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN MOST INACCURATE. I SOMETIMES WONDER IF THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN INFORMED AT ALL ABOUT THE TALKS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN A VERY CONGENIAL MANNER WITH OUR TRADING COUNTERPARTS AND ABOUT THE POSITION CONCERNING RETALIATION WITH REGARD TO EGGS, ETC. THEY SEEM TO THINK THE MAIN CONCERN IS THAT CANADA STILL WANTS TO EXPORT EGGS OVER THERE. I CAN TELL THE HON. MEMBER THAT OUR EXPORTS OF EGGS OVER THERE ARE MAINLY NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THEIR EGGS COMING HERE. WE ARE NOT DESIROUS OF EXPORTING EGGS TO THE UNITED STATES. IF THEY WANT TO PUT AN EMBARGO ON OUR EGGS COMING INTO THEIR COUNTRY, THAT IS PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT BY US." END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO ECON COUNSELOR'S QUESTION TOM BURNS (SENIOR ADM, ITC) EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS ABOUT WHELAN'S STATEMENT REGARDING EMBARGO WHICH HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE READ IN CONTEXT WHELAN'S EXASPERATION ABOUT ATTACKS ON HIS SUPPLY/ MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT "STRICTLY SPEAKING THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY. MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE IN OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALSO MAKE STATEMENTS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT ARE NOT AND DON'T BECOME OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY."

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: EAGR, CA, US, (WHELAN, EUGENE)
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